

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the above-identified application.

It is respectfully submitted that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 8, 2006.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner alleged that new matter was introduced in the Amendment filed 10/09/2005¹ [sic] by changing: “concurrently injecting nitrogen gas” to “concurrently spraying nitrogen gas” in claim 1. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s §112 rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Applicants respectfully submit that the October 19, 2005 claim amendment is properly supported by the specification in the above-identified application. For example, Applicants direct the Examiner’s attention to the disclosure on page 14, lines 19-24, wherein the systems or apparatuses for nitrogen-two-fluid processing is described as follows:

A spray system for concurrently injecting nitrogen gas and water in the nitrogen-two-fluid processing can be, e.g., a nitrogen-two-fluid spray, such as a soft spray, a nano-spray or others by DAINIPPON SCREEN MFG. CO., LTD, a nitrogen-two-fluid spray by TOSHIBA MECHATRONICS CO., LTD., or others.

¹ The Amendment the Examiner refers to is correctly the Amendment filed on October 19, 2006.

In view of the aforementioned disclosure, Applicants respectfully submit that the previously amended matter regarding "spraying" is clearly described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §112 rejection of claims 1-15.

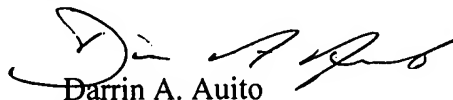
Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date. However, if the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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